

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 and 21-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1-19 are rejected. Claims 1, 22, 33, 34, 35 and 36 are amended. Further consideration is requested.

Claims 1-6, 11-13, 15-18, 21, 22, and 25-34 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Wolff et al, US Patent No. 4,486,826. Claims 1, 22, 33, 34, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Goodrum et al, US Patent No. 6,032,271. Both rejections under 35 USC 102(b) are respectfully traversed as the Applicants have made additional amendments to claims 1, 22, and 33-36 including adding the limitations of first and second comparators for comparing a request packet and a response packet to the match conditions to determine if there is a hit or a miss, not deemed to be taught in either Wolff et al or Goodrum et al. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 22, and 33-36 is found in the specification at page 10, lines 35-37. Claims 1, 22, 33, 34, 35 and 36 are each deemed to be allowable as including at least one limitation not taught in the cited art. The remaining claims are deemed to be allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolff et al in view of Cepulis, US Patent No. 6,055,596. The rejection of claims 7-10 is respectfully traversed as being dependent upon allowable claim 1 for the reasons discussed above.


In view of all of the above, the claims are now believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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